



Free e-News from your Hayward Fire Department-

Hayward Fire Department Honored at the White House

During the week of January 16th The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington DC awarded the Hayward Fire Department (HFD), with the 2011 FEMA Community Preparedness Award and Champions of Change Award through the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA).

The award included transportation and accommodations for the HFD Public Education Officer, to attend the ceremonies representing the HFD and the ECA.

The ECA is composed currently of three regional alliances: the Southern California Earthquake Alliance, the Bay Area Earthquake Alliance, and the Redwood Coast Tsunami Working Group. Many organizations work together with ECA including the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), California Earthquake Authority, FEMA, American Red Cross to name a few. The HFD is currently on the ECA steering committee representing the Bay Area, and was selected to attend the event at the White House for the positive, educational work that has been done in Hayward for its residents and the region.

The HFD's/ECA's cornerstone activity is The Great California ShakeOut, an annual statewide earthquake drill that began in 2008 which involves millions of participants each year all across California. The ShakeOut has now been replicated in many states and in other countries. The HFD and ECA distribute "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country" and other publications.

On Thursday, January 19th, the HFD represented the ECA and local Bay Area residents who help prepare their communities for disaster and build a more resilient nation, were honored as "Champions of Change" at the White House.

"Champions of Change" is a special series being carried out by the White House as a part of President Obama's "Winning the Future" initiative. It profiles Americans from across the country and features extraordinary and innovative Americans, who are helping to improve the nation, one community at a time.

“All across the country, ordinary Americans are doing extraordinary things in their communities to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world. Every week we invite these Champions of Change to the White House to share their ideas to win the future” says President Obama.

Special speakers at Eisenhower Executive Office Building, South Court Auditorium off the West Wing included:

- Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security
- Timothy Manning, Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, FEMA
- Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator of FEMA
- Richard Reed, Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security Continuity Policy
- Jon Carsen, Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement
- Erin Hannigan, OPE Associate Director for Champions of Change

The award consisted of the following events:

- Meeting with Tim Manning in the FEMA “War Room” M1
- Private tour of the Capital Building
- Private White House tour lead by the Secret Service
- Watched as President Obama left via Helicopter from the South Lawn

“FEMA received nearly 200 Individual and Community Award applications from 36 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, but it was the work that Hayward Fire Department showcased during past “Great ShakeOut” earthquake drills, which truly reflected the collaborative spirit for building a more resilient nation while capturing the embodiment of Whole Community” says Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security. The Great ShakeOut Drill is an extraordinary example of what can be accomplished locally, and nationally, assisting in the future protection of our Nation.

The next Great ShakeOut drill is scheduled for October 18th 2012, at 10:18 am.

For more information on Disaster Preparedness and safety related materials, please see our website at: www.hayward-ca.gov click on the red “Disaster Preparedness” button or contact the Hayward Fire Department Emergency Services Office for additional information at (510) 583-4948.